Telephone connections in the Rural Areas

123. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections which were provided by private sector Operators in the rural areas (State-wise);

(b) whether Government are aware that private operators are not keen to provide telephone facilities in the rural areas; if so, why; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in order to make it mandatory for all such private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per license agreement issued to Private Telecom Service providers, at least 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years from the date of migration/effective date of licence. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/Towns lies with the Licensee depending on their business decision. The Government has amended the Indian Telegraph Act to establish Universal Service Obligation Fund with effect from 01-04-2002 to provide affordable telegraph services in rural and remote areas.

The details as given by Private Sector Operators regarding number of telephone connections provided in rural areas (State-wise) are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs)

Sl. No.	Service Area	Total number	No. of RDELs provided as on 30-09-2006 RIL	TTL	TTL(MH)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Andhra Pradesh	117	28841	0	0	28841
3.	Asasm	26	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	56	130	20073	0	20203
5.	Jharkhand	66	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	120	24080	0	0	24080
7.	Haryana	16	2069	24068	0	26137
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22	5160	0	0	5160
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	19	0	0	0	0
10.	Karnataka	117	32861	19790	0	52651
11.	Kerala	15	28636	0	0	28636
12.	Madhya Pradesh	230	3817	28013	0	31830
13.	Chhattisgarh	88	0	0	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	228	10035	0	51120	61155
15.	North East-I	27	0	0	0	0
16.	North East-II	50	0	0	0	0
17.	Orissa	96	0	0	0	0
18.	Punjab	18	510	51831	0	52341
19.	Rajasthan	203	3794	74450	0	78244
20.	Tamil Nadu	24	35262	0	0	35262
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	84	1964	56416	0	58380
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	21	2048	17918	0	19966
23.	Uttaranchal	29	0	0	0	0
24.	West Bengal	13	2793	0	0	2793
	TOTAL :	1685	182000	292559	51120	525679